

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 18, 2011

Media Contact: Elizabeth S. Hendrix, Director – 410-638-3389

Commission on Disabilities Gearing up for Annual Employment Awards Luncheon

(Bel Air, MD) - - The Harford County Commission on Disabilities' Employment Committee is now accepting nominations for awards to be presented at its Annual Awards Luncheon marking **Disability Employment Awareness Month** in October. The luncheon will be held Thursday, October 20, 2011 at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs in Bel Air.

"The awards highlight the accomplishments of employees with disabilities in our community and recognizes the employers who give them the opportunity to join the workforce," said Committee Co-Chair Jackie Angerhofer. "The committee also spotlights individuals, businesses and organizations that promote the hiring of persons with disabilities," said Angerhofer. The official theme for October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month, **"Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities,"** promotes this highly skilled talent pool that can help employers compete in this challenging economy.

Anyone can nominate – whether they are a supervisor, friend, patron, acquaintance, or a co-worker. Those who know of a person, business or organization that has truly made an impact, are encouraged to fill out a nomination form. Forms are located at www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities - click on **"Nominate a Winner!"** It only takes a minute to nominate someone who has worked daily to make a difference, or a business/organization that has gone above and beyond to help change a life.

Nominations are now being accepted in six categories:

Employee of the Year: given to an individual with a disability who has exhibited exceptional ability and determination in entering or re-entering the workforce or maintaining employment.

Employer of the Year: given to recognize the extent and effectiveness of the nominee's activities in promoting employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities beyond what is mandated by Federal, State and local laws.

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Harford County Student Worker of the Year: presented to a Harford County student enrolled in high school, college, or a vocational training program that has a work component as part of the program.

Accessibility Award: recognizes businesses, facilities, programs, and services in Harford County that are accessible to all through design and/or inclusive and accommodating practices.

Ruth Helen Thompson Memorial Community Service Award: given to recognize an individual, organization, agency or facility that is doing an outstanding job in helping to include individuals with disabilities in employment or community activities.

Media Award: given to an individual or organization who/which has significantly contributed throughout the year with programming, media coverage or sponsorship of advertisement to promote or change attitudes toward individuals with disabilities.

For more information or to obtain a nomination form, contact the Harford County Department of Community Services' Disabilities Coordinator, Sharon Grzanka at 410-638-3373 voice/TTY. Nomination forms may also be submitted online or downloaded at www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities (click on "Nominate a Winner!"). The deadline to submit a nomination is September 7, 2011.

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities was established in 1995 to serve as the voice of the disability community in Harford County. Members are appointed by the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council.

The Harford County Department of Community Services was established in 1979 via Executive Order and works daily to meet the needs of our seniors, youth, persons with disabilities and those struggling to overcome addiction. The Department works with federal, state, local and private agencies to ensure our county continues to evolve and remains dedicated to providing the best possible services for our citizens and community.